

The Voice

Bellflower Teachers Association



From the President

Hello Members,

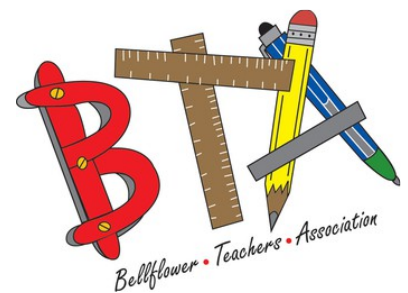
It's officially Fall! It's hard to believe October is here. I start this newsletter with a quote:

- "The duties of a teacher are neither few nor small, but they elevate the mind and give energy to the character." –Dorothea Dix

BTA acknowledges that teachers are working hard for the students of BUSD and we appreciate all that you do. If there is something you need help with, please reach out to your site rep. If you do not know who your site rep is, please email me and I will help you.

Board Meeting Highlights: The last board meeting on September 23rd recognized our Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Ellis from Bellflower Middle/High School. BTA is now a part of the agenda on a regular basis to give updates to the board about what we are doing. I am attaching my presentation for your review. Mrs. Holguin made a presentation about the district filing for financial independence from LACOE.

BTA had its first membership engagement event at Lucielle's on Friday September 24. We had a great turnout and the food was fantastic. Thank you to all of you who came, and look for more invitations to future events.



BTA wants your pictures! Please send pictures of your teachers on campus. I use them in the newsletter and now the board presentation. School Spirit wear, Dress Up days, Special events. Teachers only please. Email them or text them voiceofBTA@gmail.com or (562)525-4557.

BTA has a new phone number (562) 525-4557. Please use this number if you need to reach me. The voiceofBTA@gmail.com will stay the same. If you no longer work for Bellflower, please let me know so I can update the email lists.

Stronger Together,
Kari M.
BTA President

BTA School Board Presentation 9_21_23.pdf

[Download](#)

2.3 MB

School Board Meetings - Send your teachers!

In the past we have assigned Board Meetings to attend to sites, so the site can decide who to send. Here are the meetings for the rest of 2023 and the sites assigned to each one.

Oct 12–Foster and Pyle

Oct 26–Williams and Baxter

Nov 16–Jefferson and Washington

Dec 14–LF, Mayfair and Bellflower

Open Enrollment until October 13, 2023



SEPTEMBER 18, 2023 – OCTOBER 13, 2023

DON'T MISS THIS CHANCE!

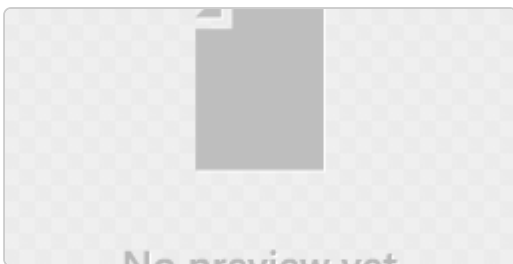
IT'S OPEN ENROLLMENT TIME!

**Add.
Drop.
Change.**
It's your choice.

Starting September 18 thru October 13, 2023, you will have a chance to elect or make changes to your Bellflower Unified School District health insurance coverage.

More information regarding your 2024 benefits will be made available soon.

CTA Member Benefits



Member Benefits 4 You (MB4U)

ctamemberbenefits.org

Did someone say contest?

CTA Membership Educator Appreciation Giveaway | Provident Credit Union

In honor of California teachers, Provident Credit Union is hosting an educator appreciation giveaway. One educator will be selected to win \$2,500. Learn more.

providentcu.org

Thinking About Retirement?

CTA Retirement Workshops

- It's always nice to find out how the system is working and to plan for our futures. Click on the link below to make an appointment and attend a retirement workshop.



Meet virtually with Cisco Webex. Anytime, anywhere, on any device.

Simple, modern video meetings for everyone on the world's most popular and trusted collaboration platform.

cta.webex.com

Below is the PDF explaining retirement benefits. Please note: for the insurance cash out option you must be enrolled in the district medical plan for at least your last year of teaching. If you are on the opt out plan you will continue to get what you are eligible for, but there is no cash out option.

23 BGB Retirement Guide Certificated Revised 05.09.23 (busd) (1) (1).pdf

[Download](#)

644.5 KB

Resources for Teachers

FACIL'iti

FACIL'iti makes everyday life and everyday moments easier through user-friendly, one-click innovative digital tools for those with cognitive, visual, and motor challenges.

The age of the internet has been a fabulous revolution of information and media. Using smart devices (mobile phones, laptops etc.) one is able to access news, entertainment, as well as engage in all sorts of e-services from banking to health-care. However, websites are rarely accessible to those users with cognitive, visual and motor impairments.

FACIL'iti provides a significantly improved and entirely customizable browsing experience for all users. Our solution allows websites to instantly and seamlessly address each user's particular needs.

FACIL'iti is available on a subscription basis to all web and intranet owners and developers who

accessibility needs can benefit from this solution free of charge, on all websites on which it is provided.

<https://www.facil-iti.com/>

LA County Library

The Los Angeles County Libraries offer a ton of opportunities for people of all ages. Click the link below and start exploring!

<https://lacountylibrary.org/#>

CTA Conferences 2023-2024

Here are the upcoming CTA conferences. If you are interested in attending, click the link to register. BTA will reimburse you for your registration and parking. If the conference is out of town, please contact me for more information.

Special Education Conference

October 6-8, 2023

Hyatt Regency, Orange County

<https://web.cvent.com/event/4c697e57-4d08-4a3c-8044-b0ed2720601b/regPage:d4e29386-6c99-4a23-a66b-30a95d915e7d?rp=9a2eb910-0d92-43f0-b766-7211bf45f012>

LGBTQ+ Issues Conference (WAITLIST AVAILABLE)

October 27-29, 2023

Margaritaville Resort Palm Spring

<https://web.cvent.com/event/270b64f3-15dd-4ee8-b11b-7d73279d0694/eventWaitlistPage:89945935-3e65-4d82-ad54-ea6e82486472?environment=P2&rp=c870fa23-fd74-4d63-93c0-cffcc143ed3>

Issues Conference

January 12-14, 2024

Planet Hollywood LAs Vegas

<https://web.cvent.com/event/4fc70f53-7096-44d8-a375-d8c983f31e25/regPage:d4e29386-6c99-4a23-a66b-30a95d915e7d?RefId=CTA.org>

New Educator Weekend

February 23-25, 2024

Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa

<https://web.cvent.com/event/19289e2a-0e58-44a0-b302-749ea65291fa/regPage:d4e29386-6c99-4a23-a66b-30a95d915e7d?RefId=CTA.org>

Good Teaching Conference

March 22-24, 2024

Hyatt Regency OC

<https://web.cvent.com/event/25e3e96f-e0be-474d-8b26-7969e5ff66f6/regPage:d4e29386-6c99-4a23-a66b-30a95d915e7d>

Things to Note

2023-2024 BTA Dues Schedule

2023-24 dues schedule.pdf

Download

51.4 KB

New Pay Scales

You can find the new pay scales on the Business Plus site and also on our website bellflowerteachers.com.

Know Your Executive Board

BTA Executive Board 2023-2024.pdf

Download

509.9 KB

Know Your Teacher Rights

CTA members have the legal right to a safe and healthy workplace. A mini-guide to teacher's rights was placed in your teacher mailbox for your reference and review, but if you missed it or didn't get one, the link is below for you to visit and bookmark.

<https://www.cta.org/for-educators/your-rights>

Know Your Ed Code

When can you suspend a student? What are your rights as a teacher? Check out this PDF!

<https://casetext.com/statute/california-codes/california-education-code/title-2-elementary-and-secondary-education/division-4-instruction-and-services/part-27-pupils/chapter-6-pupil-rights-and-responsibilities/article-1-suspension-or-expulsion/section-48910-suspension-of-pupil-from-class-by-teacher>

Know Your Contract

www.bellflowerteachers.com has the most updated contract PDFs for your reference.

<https://bellflowerteachers.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/2020-2022-BTA-Contract-FINAL-for-printing.pdf>

Have you joined PTA?

Did you know that you can still join PTA and support your school? PTA does a lot of great things for our kids, and teachers too, so if you haven't joined, please do!



www.bellflowercouncilpta.org/p/join-our-ptas.html

Get the Calm App for Free with CTA!

Free subscription to CTA members. To access your free subscription, you will need to log into the CTA Member Benefits site, <https://www.ctamemberbenefits.org/en/Life-Events/Calm>. This link will take you to our Calm site and you will follow the instructions on the page to create your Calm account. You will need your CTA member ID, if you do not know your member ID, you can call Member Benefits at (650) 552-5200. They can also help create your Calm account. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

Email your Board Members

Whew! The election is over, and now the work begins. Please reach out to the board members and let them know your concerns, invite them to your classrooms, share the exciting things going on at your site.

Mayra Garza (President) mayragarza@busd.k12.ca.us

Brad Crihfield (Vice President) bradcrihfield@busd.k12.ca.us

Amie Stewart (Clerk) amiestewart@busd.k12.ca.us

Renita Armstrong (Member) renitaarmstrong@busd.k12.ca.us

Sue ElHessen (Member) Selhessen@busd.k12.ca.us

Event Information

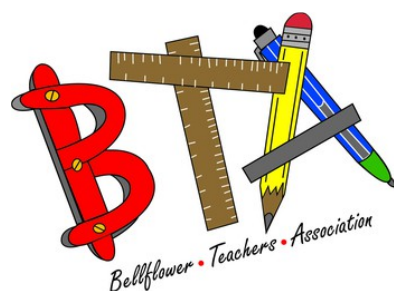
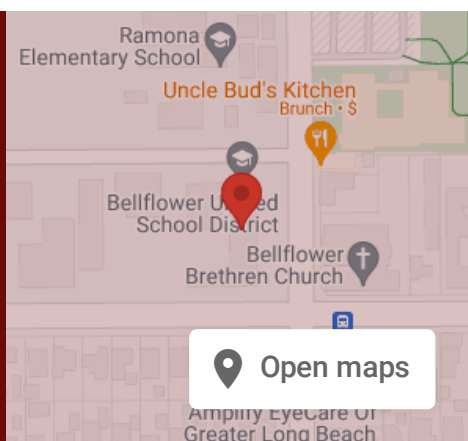
School Board Meeting

When?

Thursday, Oct 12, 2023, 06:00 PM

Where?

Bellflower Unified School District, Clark Avenue, Bellflower, CA, USA



Bellflower Teachers Association

Email: voiceofBTA@gmail.com

Website: www.bellflowerteachers.com

Location: [17434 Studebaker Road, Cerritos, CA, USA](https://www.google.com/maps/place/17434+Studebaker+Road,+Cerritos,+CA,+USA)

Phone: (562) 525-4557

Facebook: [Facebook.com/bellflowerteachers](https://www.facebook.com/bellflowerteachers)

